

8 Divisions

These studies are designed to support pupils in understanding what it means to divide a fixed pulse equally by different amounts, in preparation for all theory & musicianship work concerning time in music.

All of them should keep a fixed pulse in the lower part, with the speed of the notes in the upper part increasing as the divisions increase.

They are written to ideally suit the keyboard, but please do feel free to ask for adaptations to suit specific instruments -- I'm sure one part could be played by a pupil and the other by a teacher, or the two parts split across an ensemble, or used however you find works well!

Exercise 1

I intend this for the less advanced keyboard players, as the hands are in fixed position. Maybe the upper part played in the key of any open string on violin/viola would be useful for 4th finger work! These could certainly also be used for exploring transposition by key, and if you want to invert the parts (swap them around) you should then start on the third beat rather than the first.

Exercise 2

Intended as a way of practising scales that also covers the concept of dividing a pulse. Perhaps some of you use this trick already, but it will work for any division of your choosing! It always falls back on the tonic.

Exercise 3

This is an extension of the 2nd exercise, as it keeps an ascending major scale in the left hand, but this time introduces a countermelody in the upper part. These are all invertible (though sometimes end with the third in the bass).

8 Divisions of a Pulse

Daniel Saleeb

EXERCISE 1

o = fixed, slow pulse

Division 1: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays a sequence of notes: quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth. The left hand plays a steady pulse of quarter notes.

Division 2: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs. The left hand plays a steady pulse of quarter notes.

Division 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs. The left hand plays a steady pulse of quarter notes.

Division 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs. The left hand plays a steady pulse of quarter notes.

Division 5: Treble clef, 5/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs. The left hand plays a steady pulse of quarter notes.

6

1

This system shows a musical exercise for 6 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

This system shows a musical exercise for 6 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

7

1

This system shows a musical exercise for 7 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

This system shows a musical exercise for 7 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

8

1

This system shows a musical exercise for 8 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

This system shows a musical exercise for 8 divisions. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of eighth notes grouped into four pairs, each pair beamed together and connected by a slur. The bass clef staff contains four whole notes, one centered under each pair of eighth notes in the treble staff.

EXERCISE 2

Division 1: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4. Bass staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 2: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a sequence of eighth notes with slurs: G4-A4, B4-C5, B4-A4, G4-F4, E4-D4, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3. Bass staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 3: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a sequence of eighth notes with slurs: G4-A4, B4-C5, B4-A4, G4-F4, E4-D4, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3, D4-C4, B3-A3, G3-F3, E3-D3. Bass staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 4: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a sequence of eighth notes with slurs: G4-A4, B4-C5, B4-A4, G4-F4, E4-D4, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3, D4-C4, B3-A3, G3-F3, E3-D3, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3, D4-C4. Bass staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 5: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. Treble staff contains a sequence of eighth notes with slurs: G4-A4, B4-C5, B4-A4, G4-F4, E4-D4, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3, D4-C4, B3-A3, G3-F3, E3-D3, C4-B3, A3-G3, F3-E3, D4-C4, B3-A3, G3-F3, E3-D3. Bass staff contains a sequence of eight quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 6 and 7. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 6, then down to G4 in measure 7. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 8 and 9. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 8, then down to G4 in measure 9. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 10 and 11. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 10, then down to G4 in measure 11. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

The fourth system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 12 and 13. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 12, then down to G4 in measure 13. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

The fifth system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 14 and 15. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 14, then down to G4 in measure 15. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

The sixth system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains measures 16 and 17. It features a melodic line with eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up to D5 in measure 16, then down to G4 in measure 17. The notes are grouped into two phrases, each with a slur. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains whole notes: G2, D2, G2, and D2.

EXERCISE 3

Division 1: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 2: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 3: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 4: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

Division 5: Treble clef, 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays eighth notes with slurs: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand plays a sequence of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

The first system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff is in 6/8 time and contains a single melodic line of eighth notes, grouped into four measures by slurs. The bass clef staff contains a single bass line of quarter notes, also grouped into four measures by slurs.

The second system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line of eighth notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur.

The third system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff is in 7/8 time and contains a melodic line of eighth notes, grouped into four measures by slurs. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes, also grouped into four measures by slurs.

The fourth system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line of eighth notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur.

The fifth system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff is in 8/8 time and contains a melodic line of eighth notes, grouped into four measures by slurs. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes, also grouped into four measures by slurs.

The sixth system of music is written for a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line of eighth notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes, with the first two measures grouped by a slur and the next two measures grouped by another slur.

8 Divisions - Development Draft - 10.09.20
for use by teachers and pupils of Sheffield Music Academy